

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
1997

SPEECH OF

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Chairman, I support the Frank amendment for the elimination of international military and education training [IMET] funding for Indonesia. I believe this is a focused and unmistakable message to the Government of Indonesia that their strong arm tactics in regard to human rights, especially concerning the people of East Timor, will not be condoned by the United States. At the same time, this action will not adversely affect the strong economic recovery that has increasingly, helped to pull the people of Indonesia out of poverty over the last 30 years.

The State Department has clearly documented the torture and killing of civilians, especially nonviolent activists for self-determination in East Timor. Until good faith efforts to ensure the safety of the East Timorese are put in affect, talks on the political status of that country between Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the United Nations, cannot go forward. This amendment will help to bring both Indonesia and East Timor in concert with the greater international community.

IMET brings foreign military officials to the United States for military training, which includes instruction in human rights standards. While this is certainly a laudable program, in this case it confers acceptance on the recent practices of the Indonesian Armed Forces. The last decade has seen increased improvement in relations between the United States and Indonesia, and the selected use of such targeted pressure will promote these trends and extend them to the issues of human rights and even workers rights. I support this trajectory and I support this amendment.

TRIBUTE TO STAN HALL

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share with you and my colleagues the outstanding professional career and community service of a distinguished constituent who has resided in the city of Oakland for over 25 years, Mr. Stan Hall. On the occasion of his 50th birthday, I wish to join with the community to pay tribute to his dedication and commitment that has endeared him to those he had worked with and earned him well-deserved accolades for over two decades.

Stan Hall was born in Richmond, CA, to William and Hazel Hall. He is the seventh of eight children. Stan attended local schools in the

Richmond Unified School District, graduating from Harry Ells High School. He was a member of the student council, drama class, the school band, the school's State championship basketball team and the Forensic Society. Stan received the State Championship Award for Oratorical Interpretation.

He obtained his B.A. degree from San Francisco State University and his M.P.A. from Golden Gate University. He served as a faculty member of the Graduate School of Public Administration at Golden Gate University where he authored and published municipal management articles and presentations.

Throughout his life, Stan has been active in the community, serving as a member or in leadership positions with a number of professional and community organizations. Some of the organizations of which he has held or currently holds positions with, are the United Way of the Bay Area, Bay Area Urban League, Mt. Diablo Therapy Center, CHAD, the NAACP, Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California, the American Society of Public Administration, the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, and the International City Management.

In recognition of his achievements and dedication to the community, Stan was twice named an Outstanding Young Man of America, named in Who's Who in Black America, and Who's Who in California. Among the numerous awards for achievement and community service of which Stan has been the recipient are the Meritorious Service Awards from the city of Richmond, CA, from the Seaside Masonic Lodge, and from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Stan is an active member of the Allen Temple Church of Oakland, CA, where he serves as a member of the public ministries committee, community development committee, the male chorus, and the sanctuary choir.

I join in celebration of Stan's 50th birthday and his more than 20 years of public service.

HONORING THE RED BOILING
SPRINGS FIRE AND RESCUE
SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Red Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4- to 6-month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

Rescue squad members are volunteers. They receive no pay for what they do. What also makes their service especially outstanding is that the organizations themselves

receive no funding. They receive no funding from the city, the county, or the Federal Government.

Rescue squads are funded in the same spirit of community volunteerism which move them to serve. Family, friends, and neighbors pitch in at bake sales, road blocks, and fish fries to help those who sacrifice their time for the benefit of the whole community.

Committing such an amount of spare time and energy to a job so emotionally and physically taxing requires a sense of devotion and duty for which we are all grateful.

COMMENDING JENNIFER TUTAK
ON HER ESSAY "THE BEST OF
THE BEST"

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues an excellent essay from an intelligent young student in my district named Jennifer Tutak. She writes that, looking back over the past 200 plus years of our country's history, we have made remarkable advances and are indeed the best of the best.

I would encourage my colleagues to take a moment and read her very optimistic and uplifting account of what we as Americans have accomplished since the beginning of our country. I certainly agree that the United States is the best country in the world, and Jennifer does well in reminding us of that.

THE BEST OF THE BEST

(By Jennifer Tutak)

Just over two hundred years ago, America was nothing more than a small band of colonies lacking unity and a strong government. Yet today we are leading the world in technological advances, medical breakthroughs, agricultural production, and global politics. A universal superpower, we have tremendous amounts of food, rich, vast lands, superb military forces, and a successful government. How did this happen? In two centuries, how did we surpass countries which have existed for thousands of years? The answer lies in the strong governmental and moral values of dedicated citizens which have pushed us to the top and continue to bring us to new heights and achievements.

It takes proficiency to make an administration strong, and our federal system of government provides just that. The ethical codes of each of the three branches have built up a stable governing body which meets the needs of its people and serves as a model for the rest of the world. The judicial branch protects the rights of all United States citizens, declaring them "innocent until proven guilty". Both the legislative and executive branches create laws to produce new benefits for the country, like safety regulations and trade agreements.

We hold public votes for our representatives in accord with the belief that the government directly serves us. They reflect our values and wishes and work to institute them. The United States strongly advocates world peace and belongs to a myriad of organizations and committees to promote goodwill, assistance, and trade between countries. We value our environment, the clean, crystal water, fresh air, and lush forests. The country recognizes the resources which we take for granted actually belong to our chil-

dren's children's children. The government likewise has set up national parks, land reserves, pollution regulations, and created protection for endangered species. A third standard demanded by the people involves that of education. Our government provides public schooling for every child in this country, so that they may grow up with the means to make bright futures for themselves.

Another area in which the American public and their administration have used strong ideals lies in the economy. We have always fiercely believed in a free enterprise system. The incentives of owning a private business and making profit instigated millions of citizens to work hard and develop the country. In doing so, the United States started growing as a capitalist giant through mining, farming, trade, industry, entertainment, and building, to name a few. The money brought in, new inventions, and immigrants eager to try their own hand in business never let the country look back.

The government did uphold and expand on such values, but it was the American voices behind them who presented these ideals and their own customary, unwritten morals. As already shown in the example on free enterprise, U.S. citizens have been zealous believers of hard work since the country's formation. The Founding Fathers set up a government and turned a loose group of states into a nation. Pioneers opened up the West. Immigrants introduced their ideas and joined the fight to advance America. Oil was found, railroads were connected, the Wright brothers flew the first airplane, women won the right to vote, America met victories in both World Wars, Dr. Jonas Salk found the polio vaccine, man landed on the moon, computers were invented, and we continue to speed down the Information Superhighway to new prospects on the horizon. The determination and devoted labor of all Americans has proved quite possible to be our greatest strength.

Besides working hard, the policy of helping others has long been a value which has made America great. Whether it be a neighbor in trouble like Mexico, a devastating earthquake in southern California, or the atrocious Oklahoma City bombing, Americans have come to the rescue. The Red Cross, 911 Emergency Medical Services, police departments, fire stations, and a multitude of other volunteer organizations come forth in times of need. We care about our brothers and sisters. U.S. citizens give money, volunteer time and talent, spread hope, and even donate their own blood and organs for each other. In a country where Good Samaritans live, good things are bound to happen.

Thus, by supporting the ethics of the Constitution and the values of hard work and love, the American people and their government have made our country the international force it is today. We value our freedoms and friends as much as hard work and free enterprise. We value education, the environment, and a peaceful world. We value all of these because we value the future of America. As the 21st century arrives, we shall accomplish new feats and set new goals and continue to make our great country even better.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 10, 1996

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 3268, the IDEA Improvement Act of 1996. I have kept very close watch on this very important legislation because my personal concerns and the concerns of the countless Idahoans who have contacted me with their deep interest in the need for IDEA. I am very pleased to see that the bill before us reflects a balanced approach that I am proud to support. The legislation gives proper consideration to both the needs of the individual children and the needs of public schools that educate our children.

This bill takes major steps to improve IDEA. It provides new flexibility to parents. Parents will now have a well defined roll in the placement team as well as the learning plan team. This enhancement of the parents' roll gives them better access to school records and offers mediation services to resolve disputes before court costs begin running up.

Another important step this bill takes is the assistance it provides to school principals with additional flexibility to the schools. This legislation provides for increased local funding, simplified accounting, and fewer paperwork and procedural requirements. Most importantly this legislation creates safer schools for all students, disabled and non-disabled, and for teachers. This is accomplished by expanding opportunities for teacher training, ensuring the inclusion of appropriate supportive aids and services in the child's educational program; and enabling principals to quickly remove violent students and those who bring weapons or drugs to school from their current classrooms.

Don't take my word for it, listen to the comments I have received from the following groups.

The American Federation of Teachers wrote me:

The teachers are put in the best possible position to meet the needs of their students.

Idaho School Boards Association President-Elect, Vern Newby, wrote:

The re-authorization, as proposed, is a step in the right direction. The primary consideration is that local School Boards do what is best for all the kids.

Idaho Parents Unlimited Executive Director, Debra Johnson wrote:

We support H.R. 3268 and we appreciate your support of it as well. From the very beginning we have both agreed that maintaining a strong federal law that guarantees supports for students with disabilities is not only in Idaho's interest, it is in the nations best interest.

This legislation truly addresses the concerns that I have communicated to the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, and for that all of the committee members have my heartfelt thanks. I would especially like to thank Chairman GOODLING and Chairman CUNNINGHAM for their very good, hard work that made for a strong bill that I am proud to support.

I urge all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in support for this great-

ly needed reform and re-authorization of IDEA. By voting "yes" we ensure that all children will have proper opportunities to excel in a stable learning environment.

REFORMING GOVERNMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, June 12, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR HOOSIERS

Hoosiers often tell me how they feel shut out from the political process. They say that Washington does not listen to them, and is more responsive to special interests than to their own concerns. Many have concluded that government either makes things worse or is incapable of making them better.

It has always been true that people in this country have been skeptical of power, and our system of government, with its checks and balances, reflects that view. Our citizens have long cherished the right to strongly criticize their leaders, and that attitude can be a healthy one.

But public cynicism today is severe, intense, and stronger than it once was. A top priority for elected officials must be to restore confidence in government. People want to see that the government is on their side, working to help not hurt them.

A key element of any reform program must be to make government more responsive to the needs and concerns of its citizens. That means opening up the political process, reducing the role of special interests, and making elected officials more accountable. Congress, with my support, has taken steps to these ends, but more needs to be done.

MAKING VOTING EASIER

Congress, with my support, approved a law in 1993 to ease voter registration procedures, and the results have been encouraging. Since the law went into effect in 1995, almost 10 million more Americans registered to vote, including about 500,000 Hoosiers.

BANNING GIFTS

The House, with my support, passed a bill last year to ban all gifts to Members, with limited exceptions for close family and friends. There is simply no reason to take valuable gifts, meals or vacations from lobbyists.

STRENGTHENING LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS

I voted for a tough lobbying reform law last year that requires paid lobbyists to disclose who pays them, whom they lobby, what issues they lobby for, and how much they are paid to influence the government. This should help make the system more open and accountable.

APPLYING WORKPLACE LAWS TO CONGRESS

Last January Congress passed a law to apply private sector laws to Congress. This law was based on a recommendation of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, which I co-chaired. The legislation applies key workplace laws to Congress, including overtime, workplace safety and anti-discrimination rules.

REFORMING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

The House leadership has pledged to take up campaign finance reform this July. I regret it has taken the leadership so long to bring this priority item to the floor. My view is that genuine reform must include the following elements.